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L. Talley

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: James G. Fleming, Shawn-Yu Lin, and G. Ronald Hadley
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 19, 2001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. Preliminary Statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

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2. Form PTO - 1449 (Modified).

3. The person making this statement is the attorney or agent who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor(s) and the information in the attorney's or agent's file.

Dated: 12/18/01

Phone: (505) 284-4784
FAX: (505) 844-2363

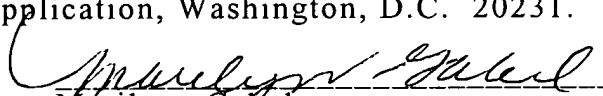
Kevin W. Bieg
Kevin W. Bieg
Patent Attorney, Reg. No. 40,912
Sandia National Laboratories
Patent and Licensing Center, 11500
P. O. Box 5800 / MS 0161
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-0161

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service on the date shown below as Express Mail No. EL026586509US in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Marilynn Gabel